



FY23 CULTURALLY SPECIFIC VICTIM SERVICES IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS - INFORMATIONAL SESSION

INTRODUCTIONS

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WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY

- Where we started
- Where we are going
- Development of the grant program
- In chat:
 - What do you hope to gain by the end of the meeting?

TODAY'S PRESENTATION - GOALS

- Introduce our work
- To provide an overview of the FY23 Culturally Specific Victim Services in Western Massachusetts grant funding opportunity
- To ensure attendees understand the timing, framework, and general expectations to submit an application for funding
- To provide overview of post award expectations

WHO IS THE MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE (MOVA)?

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA)

- Operates under the guidance of Victim and Witness Assistance Board
- Via funding opportunities, promotes high quality, comprehensive, and coordinated services for victims of crime
- Serves as a central statewide resource for victim service providers

Victim Witness Assistance Board (VWAB)

- The designated state authority to administer federal funds for victim services
- Comprised of the Attorney General , two District Attorneys, and two Public Members

WHAT IS MOVA'S MISSION?

MOVA strives to advance victim rights by ensuring all victims and survivors of crime across the Commonwealth are supported and empowered through access to high-quality services that are trauma-informed, culturally-responsive, and reflective of diverse communities.

MOVA achieves this through survivor-informed work, advocacy for enhanced victim rights and services, partnerships with agencies and individuals, and a commitment to providing funding and services for underserved and marginalized communities.

WHAT IS THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA)?

Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA) - Victim Assistance

- The Crime Victim Fund (CVF) helps an average of 3.7 million victims of all types of crime, across the country, every year
- CVF is created from the collection of federal criminal fines; not taxpayer dollars

PURPOSE OF VOCA VICTIM ASSISTANCE FUNDING

- Address the needs of victims
- Provide direct intervention services
- Promote agency investment
- Encourage community involvement

PURPOSE OF THIS FUNDING

The purpose of this funding is to establish a new grant program to enhance culturally specific services for victims of crime from communities of color in Hampshire, Hampden, Berkshire & Franklin Counties in Western Massachusetts.

TIMELINE

- March 11, 2022 Release of Request for Grant Applications
- March 28, 2022 Optional letter of Intent due
- **April 11, 2022** **Grant Submission Deadline 11:59 p.m. EST**
- May 4-6, 2022 Applicant Interviews
- June 2022 Award notifications
- August 1, 2022 Start date for FY23 VOCA grant
- Spring 2023 Year 2 (FY24) contracting
- June 30, 2024 End date for VOCA grant

Note: Timeline is subject to change at the discretion of MOVA and/or the Victim and Witness Assistance Board.

GRANT AWARD PERIOD

- Grant awards will be for 23 months
 - August 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024
 - Awarded annually during state fiscal years
 - Year 1: August 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 (FY23)
 - Year 2: July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024 (FY24)

AVAILABLE FUNDING

- MOVA anticipates making approximately \$2,000,000.00-\$4,000,000.00 in total grant awards.
- It is estimated that the average individual annual award amounts may range from \$150,000.00-\$200,000.00.

CAN MY AGENCY APPLY?

Eligible entities are:

- Community-based culturally specific programs
- Led by and created for the primary purpose of providing culturally specific services to one or more communities of color in Western Massachusetts (specifically Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties).
- Must have an organizational mission primarily focused on one or more communities of color.

CAN MY AGENCY APPLY?

- Agency is a nonprofit organization (including tribes)
- Provide services to victims of crime
- Can demonstrate a history of providing effective services to victims of crime
- Have financial support from other sources
- Can demonstrate the organizational capacity to provide the proposed services

VOCA ALLOWABLE SERVICES

Working with a victim to assess, respond to, and navigate the impact of the crime via:

- Crisis intervention services
- Hotline counseling
- Safety planning
- Food, shelter/housing, clothing, and transportation assistance

VOCA ALLOWABLE SERVICES

- Case management
- Information, referrals, advocacy, and follow-up contact
- Alternative healing modalities
- Mental health counseling and care
- Peer supports

VOCA ALLOWABLE SERVICES

- Culturally specific services
- Housing supports
- Providing childcare and respite care to enable a victim who is a caregiver to attend activities related to court proceedings and/or to receive direct victim services

VOCA ALLOWABLE SERVICES

- Facilitation of participation in criminal legal and other public proceedings arising from the crime
- Child Witness to Violence programming and clinical services
- Costs to support the planning and development of a culturally specific victim services program

VOCA UNALLOWABLE SERVICES

- Lobbying and fundraising activities
- Perpetrator rehabilitation
- Activities that seek to improve the criminal justice system
- Activities exclusively related to crime prevention
- Out-of-pocket crime victim expenses
- Most medical costs

QUESTIONS?

- Next: What to expect on the grant application

PARTS OF THE GRANT APPLICATION

- Request for Grant Application (RGA)
- Letter of Intent (optional)
- Program Narrative
- Funding Requests
- Interview

THE REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Your instruction manual
- Details the specifics of the funding eligibility, application, and the submission process

LETTER OF INTENT

- OPTIONAL!
- Template available

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

- Organization Information
 - Contact and eligibility information
- Victim Services Information
 - History of services, communities of color, area, victimization to be served, needs and how services will meet these needs

FUNDING REQUESTS

- **Complete one template for each fiscal year (FY)**
 - FY23: August 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
 - FY24: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
- **Cost categories**
 - Staff salaries and fringe
 - Training for staff
 - Travel costs to provide services
 - Support for the direct needs of people being served
 - Organization costs
 - Equipment/Supplies
 - Contracted costs
 - Other costs

INTERVIEWS

- All eligible applicants will participate in an interview.
- Questions will be standard across all applicants and will relate to their proposal.
- Questions will be provided to applicants prior to the interview.

SUBMISSION

Applications are due no later than 11:59pm EST on April 11, 2022

QUESTIONS?

- Next:
 - How will my application be evaluated?
 - What to expect if I receive an award?

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- MOVA will conduct a preliminary review of responses to ensure eligibility of applicants.
- Applicants that do not meet the eligibility requirements as outlined may not be funded.
- The narrative score (50 points possible) and the interview score (50 points possible).

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS

- Contracting
- Budgets and Expenditure Reports
- Monitoring
- Data Collection and Reporting

COST REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

- VOCA is a reimbursement grant.

Successful applicants:

- Programs will submit a detailed report of expenditures every month (expense form provided by MOVA).
- Supporting documentation required
- Award funds will not be provided in a lump sum; they will be paid over time as project costs are incurred.
- Payments to the program will be issued no later than 30 days after the submission of an error-free expenditure report to MOVA.
- Programs should have enough independent funding to pay for the costs for 2 months.

QUESTIONS?

- We will remain on until 4:00.
- RGA will be posted March 11, 2022.
- Questions will be accepted until April 4, 2022. All questions and answers will be posted by April 5, 2022.
 - Virtual Q&A Sessions
 - March 24, 2022 10:00am-11:00am EST
 - March 31, 2022 4:00pm-5:00pm EST
- Applications due no later than 11:59pm EST on April 11, 2022.



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